



Cincinnati Bar Foundation

University Hospital
Health Alliance™



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**Mayor Mallory, the Cincinnati Bar Foundation and The University Hospital Announce
Gunshot Violence Intervention Program**

Cincinnati - Mayor Mark Mallory, The Cincinnati Bar Foundation and The University Hospital are launching a new program called "Out of the Crossfire" to address the increase in gun violence in Cincinnati. The Cincinnati Bar Foundation is providing three-year funding to hire a coordinator for the program, which will be based at The University Hospital. "Out of the Crossfire" will focus on the entire spectrum of rehabilitation for gunshot victims, with collaboration from social workers, physicians, nurses and other members of the University Hospital trauma team; the legal community; court caseworkers; police parole officers; health department workers; psychologists and many community agencies.

The program will enroll gunshot wound patients who have been admitted to University Hospital. Shortly after their admission, the program coordinator will conduct a thorough evaluation of the patient, to assess his/her employment history, education level, circumstances of living quarters, drug/alcohol use, contributing environmental factors, socio-economic status, prior episodes or hospitalization for violence, coping skills and support systems. The program coordinator will also provide individual and family counseling, develop a safety plan for the victim, collaborate with supporting community agencies and initiatives and develop peer mentoring groups for victims of violence.

"In the past five years, The University Hospital has seen a five-fold increase in the number of gunshot wounds treated," says Jay Johannigman, M.D., director of trauma services for University

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Hospital and associate professor of medicine at the UC College of Medicine. “After these victims leave the hospital, many become victims of violence again and again. The purpose of this program is to break the cycle of violence for gunshot wound victims, and to restore their health and well-being physically, psychologically, socially and economically.”

Similar programs at hospitals in Baltimore and Los Angeles have resulted in a decreased recidivism rate of the participants; a decreased number of return hospital visits or wounds of violence; a decreased incidence of further adverse interactions with the court system; an increase in the employment scale of the participants; an increased level of participation in social responsibilities such as child support payments; reductions in health care and social costs; and positive impacts on the patient’s life and circumstances.

“I am excited to partner with the Bar Foundation and University Hospital on this creative program to address violence in the community by treating an underlying cause of violence rather than the violence itself,” Mayor Mallory said. This long term solution is going to a tremendous impact on the lives of victims as well as the community as a whole.”

“We are extremely grateful to the Cincinnati Bar Foundation for this generous donation and their continued support in helping to make this program a reality,” says James Kingsbury, executive director, University Hospital.

The Cincinnati Bar Foundation has secured a grant of \$45,000 (including support from the National City Community Justice Fund), \$50,000 from the Joseph J. Schott Foundation and \$30,000 from the Federated Department Store’s Foundation. An additional \$125,000 in funding is needed and is currently being solicited from community leaders in the corporate, private foundation and legal arenas.

“The Cincinnati Bar Foundation continues to look for opportunities to utilize the legal community as an economic engine for addressing some community challenges. One of the most serious issues facing Cincinnati is the increase in crime and gun violence,” said Jon Hoffheimer, President of the Cincinnati Bar Foundation. “I am proud of the lawyers in our city for supporting ‘Out of the Crossfire’.”

If you would like to help, please contact Rene McPhedran at the Cincinnati Bar Foundation, at 513-784-9595.